

I never described shells from these localities, but we always must bear in mind the fact that N. American shells have never been treated in the same way that European. There is in America a tendency to restrain the specific forms, and not to admit a shell to specific rank before the animal, anatomic features and particularly dentition be known. The celebrated American scientist, Mr. W. G. Binney, several years since, wrote me about this, concluding that "our system may be a good one, but *that he wished to be consistent.*" In Europe, we admit to specific rank whenever a shell offers sufficient, even slight, but constant characters, should these characters be the result of station, food, climate, etc., such circumstances often being quite uneasy and generally impossible to determine.

Besides this, the Eastern States will doubtless afford a number of *small* new species, when the ponds, rivers, etc.—particularly in the drifts and alluvions—will be as much thoroughly explored as similar places have already been searched for in France, where quite unexpected forms of *Lartetia*, *Paladilhia*, *Moitessieria* in still better known localities are discovered, and where the mountainous countries daily yield an increasing number of *Zonitidæ*, *Pupidæ*, etc., hitherto not discovered by earlier conchologists *inhabiting the country.* A trip in the Pyrenean region in 1884 was very successful in this way, and amongst the novelties I then found, I may mention the fine *Hyalina Anceyi*, West., and the *Paladilhia*-like shell I have alluded to.

NOTE UPON MR. ANCEY'S CRITICISM.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

Upon reading over my short article, written over a year ago, to which the above criticism is a reply, I find that I am prepared to stand by every word of it as far as matters of *fact* are concerned; and I feel confident that increased knowledge in the future will confirm my statements. I regret that it was so written as to seem to Mr. Ancey "inconsiderate." Nothing is more painful than a real or fancied violation of those amenities which should characterize all the relations between naturalists; and I am glad of this opportunity of expressing my esteem for Mr. Ancey, whose work and attainments are well known to all conchologists.

As to the points of difference between us, I would say that I have examined hundreds of *Valvata sincera* in all its varieties, and am certain that *V. striata* and "*V. mergella*" are nothing but extreme forms, which imperceptibly merge into the *sincera*. This is shown by numerous British American and U. S. specimens. *Lyogyrrus lehnerti* is a sinistral monstrosity, no more entitled to specific rank and name than the sinistral specimens occasionally found in every species of *Campeloma* (*Paludina*).

Both *Thompsonia* and *Thomsonia* are preoccupied as generic names in Zoology.

I take this occasion to correct a mistake of my own which apparently has mislead Mr. Ancey. Several years ago Prof. R. E. Call and the writer described a species of spiny rissoid from Texas as *Pyrgulopsis spinosus*. The shell really belongs to Stimpson's genus *Potamopyrgus*, as the writer pointed out a few months after the original publication. *Potamopyrgus* is largely represented in New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania, and also in the West Indies and adjacent mainland of Mexico, Central and South America. Wherever they are found, the species are nearly all subject to a dimorphism even more puzzling at first than that of the spiny forms of *Neritina* (*Clithon*). They may be either carinated above the periphery, the carina armed with a corona of spines, or else rounded, the superior aspect of the whorls completely smooth, rather flattened, and but slightly convex. In the case of *P. spinosus* C. and P., I have called the smooth form "*Hydrobia texana*," at that time not knowing the mutations to which these forms were subject. The *P. spinosus* has been figured by Strebel (*Mex. Land- u. Süßwasser Conchyl.*, pl. v, figs. 34, 34a) under the name of "*Hydrobia coronata*, Pfr." There are some differences between the Continental and Cuban forms, but all will probably prove identical, Von Martens having already united all of those known to him from the Americas, under the old name of *coronatus*, Pfr. The American species agree with the Australasian in the dentition, which is quite distinct from that of other rissoid forms. The presence of a species in Liberia, W. Africa, and of fossil forms of the same spiny type in S. European Tertiary strata shows that the group is ancient and wide-spread. Mr. Ancey (*Bull. Soc. Mal. France*, 1888, p. 185) has lately published an *Etude Monographique sur Pyrgulopsis*, in which he has included the American forms of *Potamopyrgus* known to him (but not one-half of the so-called species in our literature) in a section of *Pyrgulopsis*

which he calls *Pyrgophorus*; describing a number of new species from Nicaragua, probably all identical with either Pfeiffer's or Morelets' forms, the latter being apparently unknown to him. About a pint of these Nicaragua shells were sent to the writer a year or more since; the variability shown by them is extraordinary, and renders it doubtful whether more than one species of *Potamopyrgus* can be defined in America. *Pyrgophorus* Ancey, must become a synonym of *Potamopyrgus*.

THE SHELL-BEARING MOLLUSCA OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY HORACE F. CARPENTER.

FAMILY CYPRINIDÆ.

This family contains but one genus and that genus but one species. This species, *Cyprina Islandica*, inhabits from the eastern end of Long Island to the Arctic Ocean, and from thence southward to England. It is said to have been found off Block Island in 29 fathoms' water, but is hardly entitled to a place in the "Shell-bearing Mollusca of Rhode Island."

FAMILY ISOCARDIIDÆ.

Three genera and twenty-three species, not represented in America, by living species, but there are several fossil species.

FAMILY CARDIIDÆ.

Five genera and over one hundred and fifty species, is represented in R. I. by two genera, each with a single species. The shells constituting this family are called Cockles. They abound in shallow water in sandy places and are used for food. They are also found in deeper water. One species, *Cardium edule* is collected in immense numbers in Great Britain, where they take the place of clams, which are as rare with them as Cockles are with us.

Genus *Cardium* Linné, 1758.

There are about one hundred species, distributed world wide. The genus is divided by some authors into several sections, into one of which, *Cerastoderma*, falls the only species which inhabits R. I.